

DRS. TOM AND
KAREN ASHER
2713 RAUCH RD.
TEMPERANCE, MI
48182
734-856-9155
ashersinafrica@yahoo.com

Prayer Requests

- Continued health for Ruth Pierson. She will be coming home for a check-up in May. 1
- That the Lord will find donors to help solarize the hospital. 2
- Praise Him! Our start up fund is 87% complete! 3
- Sierra Leone Wesleyan Church 4
- Our remaining prayer and financial partners so we can go and get to work! 5
- Safety and wisdom for the boys and I while Tom is in Africa 6
- Praise Him!! We traveled to Sierra Leone with safety and are more certain than ever that we are to move there. 7

- *****
- To become a financial or prayer partner in our ministry click [here](#) Click on Missionaries and give online. Account number—WM04-0332 Asher Family
 - We need many donors committed to giving \$25-100 monthly for our four year term
 - We also need 400 people willing to pray for us on a weekly basis
 - We currently have received 30% of our goal budget.

Ashers In Africa

Volume 1 Issue 3

Newsletter Date April 14, 2008

Home Mission Notes

March was a very exciting month for the Asher family. We started the month speaking at Countryside Wesleyan Church in Lambertville. Their church has a special gift of music. We felt very welcome there and were blessed by their Pastor Tucker's words as he encouraged us in our move toward preparing our family for life in Africa.

Karen was able to speak to the Toledo area Osteopathic Academy. Many medical students are interested in overseas rotations during their academic years. While in Africa we hope to be able to introduce some U.S. medical students to tropical medicine. This is a great way to exchange information. The student gets a chance to see things that usually they only read about in text books, and the doctors and nurses get exposed to the current standards of medicine here in the U.S.

through the student. We will also be training some medical students from Sierra Leone. There are three that are sponsored by the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone at the present time.

On March 9th we spoke to the Colton Wesleyan Church in Colton, NY. It snowed heavily on our way up there and a 9 hour trip took 15 hours. Church was even cancelled for the AM service due to 18 inches of snow. Pastor Randy and Lori Anderson and family made us all feel very welcome. Pastor Randy was one of our pastors here at home until he accepted the position as senior pastor in Colton. While there we were introduced to the concept of drip irrigation and how it could help the small farms in Sierra Leone. It seems wherever we go there are people that we are to meet because they will help with our work in Sierra Leone.



We know these are not chance meetings and this helps reassure us when people question our sanity for giving up our life here in Temperance and moving to Kamakwie.

We are presently scheduling more speaking engagements. If you would like to see where we will be click [here](#) then click on missionaries and then schedule. If you would like us to come to your church or group to speak please call us!

Tom's cell 419344-2341

Karen's cell 419-349-1399

Now for what you really want to hear!

On March 18th we left early in the morning for Chicago. Two of our good friends and supporters, Bonnie and Theresa drove us from MI to Chicago so that we could take 70lbs. in each suitcase instead of 50 lbs. And 70 lbs. we did take, in all 6 suitcases. We had the medical supplies from our office and many donated from some of

you. There were all kinds of shelf stable foods like Mac and Cheese, canned hamburger, and pouches of chicken. When we arrived in Chicago we had been warned that we may be refused the 3 bags each as they were cutting back on the special treatment that missionaries usually get. We had no problems, however, we had weighed

the suitcases and they accepted all six without question. They also arrived in Sierra Leone without a problem. Our traveling companion, Steve Ullom, from Global partners was not so fortunate. He missed his Indy flight and had to fly to NY instead, then nearly missed his connection to London and finally made it to join us on the

More about Africa

flight to Sierra Leone with only 10 minutes to spare. Needless to say Tom and I were getting a bit nervous as we didn't know where we were going or if someone was going to meet us when we arrived. We were met at the airport in Lungi by Pastor Usman. He saw to it that getting through customs went well. Then he took us to the ferry in the nick of time to run on with our bags. Unfortunately our auto didn't make it and had to be brought over the next day. He arranged for us to be picked up and taken to Freetown where we stayed in a lovely hotel. It had electricity (sometimes) and running water (often) and internet (most of the time). We spent the rest of holy week visiting the churches in Freetown. They have such a heart for our Lord. They went through a terrible civil war but

they came out stronger with more churches and more believers.

We also got to visit the Bible College which is thriving and is adding additional career programs to their offered classes. The Freetown district was having their women's retreat there and they invited us to their opening service. It was beautiful, each church had a different outfit that they had made for the weekend. The singing was so lively! They sang from their hearts!

On Good Friday we visited 7 of the 11

churches in the area. We were introduced and Tom and I were humbled as each congregation clapped and cheered when they heard that we were the doctors coming to serve in Kamakwie. Many of the people of Freetown go all the way to Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital for their medical care because they trust the care there.

Finally on Saturday, Tom and I, along with Brimah Samura, the nurse who is in charge of all the medical work in the Wesleyan church, left for the hospital. We drove 3 hours on paved roads and 5 hours on roads that would better be described as 4 wheeling trails. Brimah is an excellent driver and attempted to answer all our question while he maneuvered around holes and wash outs that were large enough to loose the pick-up truck in. He was very gracious and we loved him immediately. He spoke with such respect of the doctors and the employees of the hospital and the work they do there. He explained with pride how the country was improving since the civil war with immunization programs and clinics and education programs. He is very humble and doesn't mention the many hats he wears and all the agencies and organizations that he interacts with to keep the hospital and the clinics running. He is away from his family more days than not, traveling to the areas served by the medical

facilities of the Wesleyan Church. I am certain that his work is a reflection of his deep love for the Lord. He sacrifices so much to care for the people of his country.

We were so happy to finally see our new home and the hospital. The Piersons were very gracious and hosted us in fine style. During our 10 days we helped the Piersons host the delegation from Global partners, and then a work team from World Hope Canada. The grounds have housing for about 12 people. The table at the house can accommodate that many also. I will have to learn a bit more from Ruth about cooking for large groups but I am willing to learn. The work team from Canada was building a traditional birthing unit in a village nearby. They worked so hard in that 120 degree heat. (No that is not a misprint. It was 120 in the afternoons with 95% humidity.) They came home for lunch and a break at mid-day but said that the nationals kept working right on through.

We arrived on a Saturday night so we attended church on Easter morning at the nearest Wesleyan church to the hospital. I loved the service. I didn't understand some of the message as it was in Kriol but I did understand the music and the recitation of the bible. To see how hard life is in Sierra Leone and yet to see the joy on the faces of the people makes one think. We have so much to praise Him for here in the U.S. Do we do it? Do we really praise Him?



Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital

Our Paramount Chief promises us safety

Brimah Samura R.N., Rev JY Konteh, Rev. Usman

On Tuesday we were invited to a ceremony at the tribal house. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone paid "cola" to the Paramount Chief. This was a small amount of money symbolizing the turning over of our lives to his care. By accepting this he was promising to look out for us, and to protect us. We were introduced to the leaders of the tribes in our district. Then they had the local Muslim pastor and Rev. Konteh each pray for us. We have quite a few Muslims in our area but they seem to live peacefully with the Christians. We have three Wesleyan churches in our area. We will attend each of them on a rotating basis.

Even with two pages, I can't seem to get in everything I want to tell you about. We experienced so many things that were different and exciting and sometimes uncomfortable. We saw medical problems that we only read about in medical school. We experienced the loss of patients in a culture that expresses their grief very differently than we do. We struggled with the English that is very different from our English. We worshiped with the people from the community. We were inspired and encouraged by the worship with the hospital employees in morning chapel. We saw so many thing that needed repair and replacement and we saw the way instruments and equipment were treated with such care and respect because it had been given by their friends from across the ocean. There are so many needs and yet they don't ask. They work so hard every day. They get far less in salary than they could get if they moved to a neighboring African country. And yet they continue to sacrifice, day after day, because they love their people, their country and their God. And they serve with joy! Joy at having a skill. Joy at having a job and an income. Joy at being able to help. Joy at seeing their patients in less pain, healing, surviving. . . I will write again soon. God Bless You!